8th March 1955]

Appeal petitions to Commercial Tax Officers

* 1168 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any rule to the effect that appeals to the Commercial Tax Officer should be written in English in order that they may be taken on file?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Yes. The question whether the rules should be amended so as to allow the appeal petitions and revision petitions to be written in the regional language is under consideration of the Government."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Inasmuch as even the Constitution has made it obligatory in Courts and in Bills only the use of English language and very often these merchants happen to be petty merchants, great hardships are caused in insisting on filing appeals in English. Will the Government consider immediately the advisability of revising the rules? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" This is a legacy from the year 1939. I hope the matter will be examined and the necessary thing will be done. We are going to revise the rules in the matter."

Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Article 350 of the Constitution lays down that every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance in any of the languages used in the State. In view of this directive, may I know, what stands in the way of immediately recognizing the right guaranteed by the Constitution? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Nothing stands in the way. Only we have to make the necessary changes in the rules and it will be done."

Sri S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" May I know whether there is any officer in the cadre of District Commercial Tax Officers or any Member of the Appellate Tribunal who is not conversant with the regional language even after the separation of the Andhra areas from this State? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" There will not be any such case. An Officer is supposed to know more than one language. So, no difficulty will arise."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Cannot any legacy be got over by a Departmental order? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Yes, Sir. We are trying to get over it."